2. *Casualties*:—Mr. A. Govinda Pillai, the Senior Puisne Judge of the High Court, retired on the 6th Vrischikam 1084. His service was throughout honorable and efficient; his last work was as President of the Committee appointed to enquire into and report on the customary laws regarding marriage and inheritance prevailing among Samanthas and Nairs. His Highness' Government hope soon to take up the report of this Committee for consideration. Mr. N. Ananda Row, the District and Sessions Judge of Quilon, retired on the last day of the year, on a well-earned pension. The other officers, who severed their connection with the State during the year, were Mr. P. V. Krishnaswami Chettiyar, the Financial Secretary, and Col. James, the Darbar Physician.

3. *The Administration Report for 1084*:—The Administration Report for 1084 has been prepared, and copies of it—in English and in the Vernacular—have been placed in the hands of the Members. I shall, in this address, confine myself to a reference to such of the features of the last year's administration as appear worthy of special mention; and I shall also supplement the information given in the report wherever it is found possible to do so.

Land Revenue and Agriculture.

4. *Revenue Settlement*:—The Revenue Settlement continued to make good progress. Twenty-six taluks having been already settled, the operations of the Settlement Department extended during the year over the remaining six taluks. The new taxes will be introduced in these six taluks during 1085. There is every reason to hope that settlement operations would be brought to a close before the end of the current year. Substantial reductions have already been made in the staff of the Department. On account of the reductions, the expenditure on the Department fell from Rs. 3,18,000 to Rs. 1,86,000.

5. *Demand, Collection and Balance*:—The current Land Revenue Demand rose from Rs. 29,54,000 to Rs. 35,70,000, in other words, by Rs. 6,16,000. Of this increase, a sum of about Rs. 2,00,000 was due to the progress of Settlement, about Rs. 3,38,000 to the acreage value and arrears of tax imposed on the *puthuval* and *thanathuchittah* lands brought under registry during the year, about Rs. 64,000 to the sale of the *poramboke* lands thrown open to cultivation, and about Rs. 15,000 to the enhanced tax on some coffee and tea lands. About 98 p. c. of the current demand was collected during the year. Substantial progress was also made in collecting or writing off the old arrears. The pending balance on the last day of the year was Rs. 1½ lacs, out of which Rs. 62,000 pertained to arrears and Rs. 88,000 to the current demand. Though good progress was generally made in disposing of the *puthuval* and *thanathuchittah* cases, the arrears of *puthuval* cases in the Trivandrum Division continued heavy.

6. *Revision of the subordinate staff*:—His Highness' Government felt that no permanent improvement could be expected in the Land Revenue administration unless the Village staff was redistributed, the quality of the Taluk and Divisional staff was improved and substantial increase of pay was given to all ranks of the subordinate service. The main evil hitherto was that the uniform adopted, namely, the *proverthi*, was, in many cases, unduly large. So long ago as the

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13th February 1907, Government wanted to adopt the *pakuthi* (or the survey-village) as the unit of the revenue administration, instead of the *proverthi* which often consisted of several *pakuthies*. Another evil was the large number of ill-paid and inefficient hands in the Taluk and Divisional offices. A very large number of the clerks and accountants were receiving salaries ranging from Rs. 8 to Rs. 12 per mensem. Government felt that a thorough revision of the entire subordinate staff—Village, Taluk and Divisional—was necessary to ensure efficient administration. The *pakuthi* was definitely adopted as the unit of the revenue administration throughout, and this entailed a considerable redistribution of the Village staff. The pay of the Village staff was also increased. In the Taluk and Divisional offices, the number of hands was reduced, the pay however being substantially increased. The staff of the Padmanabhapuram Division was revised during the year, and those of the Trivandrum and Quilon Divisions since the close of the year. The staff of the Kottayam Division will also be revised before the end of 1085. The following figures show the results of the revision already made :—

Name of division.	No. of hands.		Monthly pay of the staff.		Additional expenditure per annum.
	Before the revision.	After the revision.	Before the revision.	After the revision.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Padmanabhapuram	640	482	5,128	5,584	5,472
Trivandrum	466	476	4,068	5,375	15,744
Quilon	1,003	938	8,657	11,005	28,176
Total.....	2,109	1,896	17,848	21,964	49,392

7. Land Records Maintenance:—The above staff is for normal work. It was found that the Land Records Maintenance work was much in arrear in almost all the settled taluks and steps had to be taken for clearing off the arrears. A strong temporary staff was given for the purpose and the work of clearing the arrears was commenced—tentatively—in two taluks, namely, Thovalai and Agastiswaram. It is proposed to continue operations on the above lines, so that Land Records Maintenance may become current in all the settled taluks, within, say, three years or so. Action is being taken to extend operations to the Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara taluks of the Trivandrum Division and to the taluks of Quilon, Kottarakara, Pathanapuram and Shencotta in the Quilon Division.

8. Agriculture:—I mentioned last year that certain proposals made by the Director of Agriculture, for amplifying the operations of his Department, were under consideration. His Highness' Government have since passed orders on those proposals. A staff consisting of three Inspectors and two Sub-Inspectors was sanctioned and the establishments of the existing Trivandrum and Quilon farms were revised. A cattle-breeding farm was newly sanctioned and attached to the Trivan-

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drum farm. Government also sanctioned the establishment of an Agricultural Laboratory. The Trivandrum farm is being considerably extended, and, as no suitable land can be had at Quilon for extending the farm there, arrangements have been made for opening a new farm at Kottarakara. As the work of the Agricultural Department is familiar to most of you, through the numerous leaflets issued by the Director, I shall content myself with remarking that Government are satisfied with the line of work adopted by the Director and they trust that he will continue to have the cordial co-operation of the agricultural classes.

9. Cocoanut Palm Disease:—The area affected by the cocoanut blight in North Travancore has at last been delimited. It is estimated to be about 80 square miles—not in one block, but in several blocks, spread over ten taluks of the State. Government are not unmindful of the serious nature of the situation. I mentioned in my last address that the investigations of the Imperial Mycologist, Dr. Butler, were being followed up by the Director of Agriculture and that the latter had been given funds for conducting a series of experiments in selected gardens affected by the disease. Considerable progress has since been made with these experiments. In making them, the Department has been following generally the lines suggested by Dr. Butler. It is too early to draw any definite inferences from these experiments. As pointed out by Dr. Butler, the most difficult of all fungus diseases to check are those which affect the roots of plants, the parasite, which is the probable cause of the cocoanut disease in Travancore, enters into the tissues of the living roots and is out of the reach of any direct treatment, and no *ready* cure can therefore be looked for. The one obvious remedy of eradicating the disease, by destroying all the diseased material and so preventing further infection, is not practicable, for the reason that the area affected is large, and it would be useless to cut down a diseased tree unless the roots also are dug out and burnt. The experiments recommended by Dr. Butler were by way of applying manures or other substances to the roots of the palms, improving the general health of the trees, searching for disease-resistant varieties and ridding the infected soil of the parasite before replanting. The experiments, which are being made by the Agricultural Department, are in the above directions. As already stated, it is too early to draw definite conclusions from the experiments. It is however seen that, when the general health of a diseased tree is improved by careful culture and the application of suitable manures, it manifests a visible tendency to throw off the disease.

10. Veterinary:—A Veterinary Hospital was opened during the year at Kottayam, and another was sanctioned since the close of the year for Nagercoil, so that we have now three hospitals in the State, as against only one which we had a year ago. A fourth hospital will, in due course, be sanctioned for Quilon.

Forest Revenue.

11. Forests:—The work of the Forest Department during the year lay mainly in the systematic demarcation of the boundaries of the Reserves, the settlement of disputes which had hitherto escaped enquiry, a careful inspection of several

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